In regard to English Schools, the policy of establishing departmental schools has been stopped. If private schools are started, they will get all the grants for which they are eligible under the Education Code.

136. Some matters relating to Minachil.

Mr. A. C. Kuriakose (Member, Nominated) thanked the Dewan for having promised to arrange for the bridge work across the Lalam river being started early next year and for the Bharananganam-Vazhamattam and the Vazhamattam-Pinnaknad roads being taken up for departmental maintenance. The Member then said that he proposed to speak on the following topics, *viz.*, (1) public works; (2) education; and (3) administration of criminal justice. Under the first head, he prayed for the following works.

A. Roads and bridges.—(1) The metalling of the Lalam-Todupuzha road which had already been sanctioned should be commenced at an early date and the road maintained in proper condition.

(2) The Lalam-Kadutturutti road and the road from Antinad to Piravittanam from the 4th mile, Lalam-Todupuzha road and the branch road which joined the Ampara-Munkompu road at the Plasanal Church *via* Piravittanam should be completed and taken over for departmental maintenance. A portion of each of those roads had already been cut by the people.

(3) The Lalam-Ramapuram road should be completed without delay.

(4) A bridge should be constructed at Erattupetta on the Lalam-Punjar road. There was at present a cartable road from Erattupetta to Punjar Church, 3 miles long. A road in continuation of it for 2½ miles had already been cut by the people, but it was not cartable. There was then a break to a distance of 2 miles, beyond which there was another road, 3 miles long, cut by Mr. P. T. Thomas which led to his estate, Chottikayil. The Member requested that the break of 2 miles referred to above might be converted into a cartable road. Besides being useful to the inhabitants of a large number of villages, it would join the Kottayam-Kumili road at the 31st mile stone.

(5) A trace from Punjar to the 31st mile, on the Kottayam-Kumili road, should be opened and made cartable as it would connect several important trading centres like Punjar, Erattupetta, Bharananganam, Pala, Cherpunkal and Kitangur with Mundakayam.

(6) A small bridge should also be constructed connecting Erattupetta with the Erattupetta-Kanjirapalli road.

B. Canals—The Member next prayed for the construction of a canal about two miles long from the Kattachira canal to Manjur-Murikkumchuvatu *thodu* connecting the Kanakkari *chira* and crossing the M. C. road. That canal would be of great use to the public as it would irrigate about 15,000 acres of paddy lands which lay almost fallow for want of fresh water. Further, it was calculated to prevent the submersion of the Ettumanur-Lalam road during the rainy season. Under the Member's proposal, the canal would also become capable of bringing under cultivation another 15,600 acres of *kari* lands in the Vaikam taluk, if it could be extended to a length of about 1½ miles to those lands. In the result, the Member said that, if only that canal was opened, it would bring about 2,14,200 *paras* of paddy lands under double crop cultivation.

Speaking about the educational requirements of the taluk, the Member stated that there were in the taluk one English High School and 5 Middle Schools under private management and that they were prepared to take up and manage even the single English Middle School now maintained by Government. Of the 124 vernacular schools for boys, 41 were Government and the remaining 83 private institutions, and except the one building for the school at Palai all the remaining school buildings were put up by the people. Such being the peoples' contribution towards the spread of education in the taluk, the Member prayed for educational help in the following directions.

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(*a*) A school building should be constructed at Palai at the expense of the Government as per the estimate sanctioned in G. O. No. E. 3474, dated the 23rd October, 1915.

(*b*) The Training School shifted to Ettumanur should be re-transferred to Palai, as it was originally intended for Palai where a separate building for that purpose had also been erected by the people.

(*c*) In view of the increasing number of educated young men in the taluk, encouragement should be afforded to some of them for higher studies by the grant of foreign scholarships.

(*d*) In pursuance of the Government order dated the 15th December 1908, *in re*: grant of appointments, the claims of the educated young men of his taluk might be considered when vacancies arose in the several branches of the public service.

(*e*) The grant for primary schools should be raised from Rs. 7½ to Rs 10. If the proposed increase could not be given for the whole State, it might be awarded to taluks like Minachil where there were a large number of private schools. Grants should also be awarded to the two reading rooms in the taluk, *viz.*, (1) the Catholic Reading Room; and (2) the Sri Ramakrishnavilasam Reading Room.

Dealing next with the administration of criminal justice, the Member said that, as a result of the re-distribution of taluks effected in 1098, while the limits of the Minachil taluk had been extended, the *pakuthies* of Ramapuram, Lalam, Minachil and Puliyannur were brought under the jurisdiction of the Stationary Magistrate, Ettumanur. He added that the inconvenience created by such an arrangement had been brought to the notice of the Government on various occasions and prayed that the said *pakuthies* might be restored to the jurisdiction of the Minachil Magistrate. He next prayed for the creation of a First Class Magistrate's court at Minachil and for the construction of a building to accommodate all the public offices of the taluk, as most of those offices were held in rented buildings.

Dewan's reply.—As regards means of communication—bridges and roads—this taluk should receive a larger allotment than some other taluks. I shall remember this.

In regard to schools, you admit that the people themselves have constructed all the necessary buildings. Your insistence on a Government building seems therefore to be a matter of mere sentiment. We have no money for buildings. Whenever we can avoid construction of buildings we do it.

In regard to the Training School, I shall enquire into the reasons for the transfer of the school to Ettumanur. Ettumanur is only 8 miles from Kottayam. The people of Ettumanur may conveniently go to Kottayam. If possible, the school will be re-transferred to Minachil.

In regard to the enhancement of grants we cannot give special enhancement with reference to particular localities. Similarly in regard to scholarships. There is a committee sitting over the distribution of scholarships; and when their recommendations are received, Government will consider them and pass orders. You would do well to bring to the notice of that committee the desirability of showing special consideration to backward taluks in the matter of awarding scholarships.

In regard to magisterial jurisdiction, I propose to remedy this defect. A representation was made to me while I was at Kottayam two or three months ago. I think Mr. Nidiry spoke to me about this and I said that the matter would be looked into. We have referred the matter to the District Magistrate. The present jurisdiction requires revision, and revision will be effected very soon.

As regards making the Minachil Magistrate a First Class Magistrate, Government are not in favour of investing a Sub-Magistrate or a Taluk Magistrate with the powers of a First Class Magistrate. A First Class Magistrate is a very responsible officer and there is a First Class Magistrate at Kottayam.

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Member.—The Minachil Second Class Magistrate may be empowered to receive cases which have to be taken to the First Class Magistrate.

Dewan.—Such cases should be taken to Kottayam.

In regard to the grant for the reading rooms at Minachil referred to by you, the Director of Public Instruction should be approached.

As regards the canal you mention, it is an important matter and the Chief Engineer will look into it.

137. Needs of the Kunnatnad taluk.

Mr. V. R. Gopala Pillai (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) urged the following local needs for the consideration of Government.

1. The removal of the Second Class Magistrate's court from Perumpavur to Alwaye had caused much hardship to the people. That court should, therefore, be re-transferred to Perumpavur. If that proposal was not feasible, the Second Class Magistrate at Alwaye should be directed to hold his court at Perumpavur for a few days every week.

2. The English school at Perumpavur was now being held in a building put up by the people. Since the strength had increased, it was necessary that the standard of the school should also be raised. The Member said that the people were ready to provide additional accommodation with the necessary equipment and furniture, if the Government would sanction the opening of Form IV in the school at the beginning of the next school year.

3. The third request of the Member was that the local dispensary should be converted into a hospital. Although the Dewan had kindly ordered provision being made for two beds in the dispensary to meet emergent cases, for which the Member expressed the gratitude of the people, that provision did not go far enough. He, therefore, requested that the dispensary might be converted into a hospital.

4. The Member next stated that the necessity for the Munsiff's court being located in a suitable *pucca* building was being felt keenly by the litigant population and the general public and he requested that the Government might be pleased to do the needful in that matter.

5. The Member put in an earnest plea for the improvement of means of communication in the taluk by

(*a*) opening a cart road from Kuruppampadi to Vengur;

(*b*) converting the village road from Pulluvazhi to Mazhuvannur into a cart-road;

(*c*) converting the village road from Mannuparampu to Vengola into a cart-road;

(*d*) converting the village road from Mannuparampu to Valampur into a cart-road;

(*e*) metalling the road from Perumpavur market to Vallam landing; and

(*f*) metalling the unmetalled portions of the Alwaye-Perumpavur road.

Mr. Cheriatu Paulose Tharakan (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) complained about the indifference shown by the Government to the northern parts of the State in the matter of public works. His first request related to the Alwaye-Kazhukkampalam road. That work which was suspended during the current year should be taken up and completed without delay. A sum of Rs. 1,900 had already been spent on it and a mile of the road had been cut. He particularly requested that the policy of Government that people should surrender lands free of compensation for road-making might not be applied to the case of important roads.

He suggested that the maintenance grant for the Puthencruz-Kazhukkampalam village road might be raised to at least Rs. 100 per annum.

The third prayer of the Member was to improve the trace from Kuruppampadi to Kuttikkal. The proposed work involved improvements to one or two *chiras* in the second mile which might cost about Rs. 2,000.

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